

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRAVDA CALLS FOR FUEL AND ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. PRAVDA EDITORIAL TODAY (AUGUST 13) ISSUES A STRONG CALL FOR FUEL AND ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES PRIMARILY IN THE FUEL-DEFICIENT EUROPEAN PART OF THE USSR TO AVOID SHORTAGES IN THE FALL-WINTER PEAK DEMAND PERIOD. WARNING THAT THE SITUATION BECOMES "COMPLEX" AT THIS TIME IN MANY INDUSTRIAL CENTERS, THE NEWSPAPER POINTS TO THE NEED NOT ONLY TO INTRODUCE NEW FUEL AND ENERGY CAPACITY AND UPGRADE EXISTING CAPACITY BUT ALSO TO OBSERVE THE "STRICTEST REGIME" OF FUEL ECONOMY MEASURES IN INDUSTRY.

2. SEVERAL CURRENT EXAMPLES OF POOR FUEL USAGE ARE MENTIONED, SUCH AS USE OF HIGH-FUEL-CONSUMPTION HEATING EQUIPMENT, INCREASING EXPENDITURES OF FUEL FOR PRODUCTION PER UNIT OF CERTAIN GOODS, AND POOR USE OF SECONDARY FUEL RESOURCES. THESE PROBLEMS ARE SAID TO BE MOST PREVALENT IN THE UKRAINE AND CERTAIN OBLASTS OF THE RSFSR. A NEED TO EASE "PEAK" DEMANDS FOR
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POWER BY HAVING PLANTS OFF SOME ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT WAS ALSO

CITED. FINALLY, PRAVDA CRITICIZES THE PRESENT METHOD OF SETTING WHOLESALE PRICES IN SOME INDUSTRIES. IT SAY THAT IN CERTAIN MACHINE-BUILDING SECTORS, THESE PRICES ARE BASED NOT ON TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC CRITERIA BUT ON WEIGHT OF THE QUIPMENT AND AMOUNT OF FUEL USED IN PRODUCTION. THE RESULT, THE EDITORIAL COMPLAINS, IS HEAVY,ENERGY-CONSUMING EQUIPMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE REMINDER THAT THE USSR IS NOW THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF CRUDE OIL AND WITH THE CLAIM THAT THE COUNTRY POSSESSES AN"ADEQUATE" FUEL-ENERGY BASE. ITS CONTEXT AND TONE, HOWEVER, INDICATE CONCERN THAT A REPEAT OF LAST WINTER'S EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS COULD PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT FUEL SHORTAGES IN THE EUROPEAN PART OF THE USSR. REFERENCES TO THE NEED FOR FUEL CONSERVATION, ESPECIALLY BEFORE THE ONSET OF WINTER, ARE NOT UNCOMMON HERE, BUT THE PRESENT EDITORIAL IS MORE SPECIFIC AND CRITICAL THAN OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS RECENTLY SEEN. STOESEL

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